

Egypt  
18 March

My dear Hazel,

I have just time to write a few lines before the mail closes. Letters are still being accepted, though I rather think they will all be delayed for a few weeks. I got two letters from you the other day, dated Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. They were both very nice letters, and I liked the photo you enclosed in the first one.

I am glad you enjoyed your holiday at Timaru. It is a lovely place, is it not? - but not quite so good as Karitane: they have made such a glorified side-show of the beach. I hope those Otago beaches will never draw the crowd, or they will be spoilt too. My sister Jeanie mentioned that you came to see her, and that you were very well. Nettie has not written for a long time, but I expect to get letters from all of them shortly, as I wrote to absolutely everybody in November, and again at New Year, from hospital.

I think you could spare yourself any worry, thank you, about my bad

habits in drinking and smoking, and also "feeling terribly hungry". The last is fortunately a very rare experience in this war, and the other two are positively good habits on service, where there is no possibility of carrying them to excess.

I have no hints to give you about teaching - they'd come too late, anyhow. Why, by the time this reaches you, you will be almost as experienced a teacher as myself, and I have had six months of it. You will probably find that there are no difficulties except just your lack of experience, which time will cure soon enough. It is the same in everything else - good advice is no earthly use, but good practice is.

I hope to see Ken Saxon today. His unit has just arrived here, and is camped over the road. Officers have the advantage of being able to write more freely, so perhaps his sisters will sometimes be able to give you more information about our doings than I can give. Two more Nelson College

masters have also arrived with reinforcements, and both are posted to our company as lieutenants. The new company commander, Mr Dron, is an old boy of college, and so is the O.C. of our battalion, Col. Young. Prof. Stewart is now colonel of a new battalion, and has received several decorations, and deserved them too. He has been one of the most successful men in our brigade, but all Banterbury college have done well too.

We expect a move back to our old camp at Moascar in a day or two. The week has been spent in doing fatigues and company drill, but it is getting too hot and dusty for much training. We will be very glad to get out of it, and "get into it" somewhere else.

I must close now, with lots of love and best wishes from  
Becil.